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## THESE GIFTS WE BRING

By WILLIS THORNTON



THEY were wise men, St. Matthew tells us in his Gospel, who came to Jerusalem on that first Christmas. They had seen His star in the east, they said, and were come to worship Him.

And the star, which they had seen in the east, went before them until it stood above the place where lay the Child Jesus. Then, recounts St. Matthew, they "fell down, and worshiped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold and frankincense, and myrrh."

It is a long way from that simple story, told and retold in every tongue and every land in the world for two thousand years, to the hectic rush of the Christmas-time of 1942. The custom of exchanging presents at this season is an amiable one, and is productive of a certain amount of goodwill.

Surely there must be a greater lesson, however, in this story of St. Matthew, which has gripped and held humanity for so many centuries. Surely there are other gifts than the coveted gold, the precious and fragrant resins that the wise men of old laid at the feet of the Master.

It lies in the fact that at this very outset of the Christian era there was an unselfish act of giving; the very advent of Christianity on earth was marked by a desire on the part of

three wise men to give and to serve. Was it not this very spirit that Christianity was to try to bring to a selfish earth? How better usher in a religion one of whose leading ethical tenets is that it is better to give than to receive?

The physical presentation of the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh we fairly reproduce today in giving to one another similar material gifts, even though they be but greeting cards and handkerchiefs and toys. But the gifts to the Savior were a symbolism, meant to print indelibly on the soul of man a spirit of giving.

Are there no gifts to be given today that are more than material gifts of man to man and woman to woman? Are there no gifts to be given to God on the birthday of His Son?

Is not a gift of love amid a world of hatred more precious than gold? Is not a gift of kindness sweeter than frankincense, and a cheerful word more healing than myrrh?

There are gifts we can give today, though the purse be lean and the heart be heavy.

As the wise men who came to that first Christmas came not empty-handed, but came prepared to give rather than to get, so we ought to approach this Christmas of today ready to give not only material gifts, which are symbols, but more precious gifts of faith and courage and love.



# CHRISTMAS GLADDENS

## The Entire Neighborhood

It might be well this Christmas to look back to the time of our pioneer grandfathers when life was hard and rugged, when the discovery of an orange, a red apple or, wonder of wonders, a few sticks of candy in the toe of a sock, were all that one would expect or receive.

If asked to tell about the best Christmas we ever had we are almost certain to pick a Christmas when the whole family was together. It may have been long ago when a stairstep line of children gathered round a gleaming tree. Or it may have been a later year when grown sons and daughters came home from far and near. Perhaps it was just a year when all the old folks gathered at an only son's house. In any case, Christmas time brought out the best in every one and it was a grand thing to have the family together.

This year we have many reasons to be grateful. This Christmas might have been darker than it is. A world that came near crashing still stands and fights. It could have been worse, easily more tragic than it is.

Even in the wrack of a world at war, Christmas is a magnificent occasion. On one day of the year men try to live as they wish they could live always. It is the genius of Christmas to be not an individual festival, but a community and social festival that embraces all people. The evergreen trees in the public square, in the churchyards, and homes, the garlands strung across the streets are for every one to enjoy. The warm colored lights hung in the windows are a friendly greeting. The chimes at midnight beat out the old songs for the whole neighborhood. The carols are sung out of doors or in churches, schools and community halls where people can congregate.

On Christmas Day families celebrate privately at home in

entire neighborhood. Christmas is the time when people live on terms of mutual forgiveness and understanding and with faith in the ultimate ideals of the race. There is hope for a society that does not let Christmas pass unnoticed.

The spirit of Christmas never will be lost. There always will be men and women who cling to hope, faith and the belief in "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

Let us become as little children and enjoy the glitter and tinsels which may come our way, but let us also take deep cognizance of those things which represent the true Christmas spirit—tolerance, kindness, unselfishness and love of our fellow man.

Let us appreciate anew the blessings which we have—health,

individual groups, but the good cheer and joyousness of Christmas Eve gladdens the

laughter, food, shelter and the right of self-determination!



"Let us become as little children."

All the wickedness and hate, all the designs of ambitious leaders cannot put out the light that was kindled in Bethlehem, or take from the hearts of men the longing for the richer, fuller, more abundant life which the Saviour of men proclaimed. A resurgence of Hope fills even the hearts of our soldier boys who struggle on far-flung battle lines, as they contemplate the deep meaning of the Christmas message and recall happy days when, with loved ones now far removed, they experienced the rich joys which this holy season brought.

The star of Bethlehem beams a message. It is a symbol of faith and good cheer. It promises a constant renewal of belief in ourselves. It says that dauntless hope and courage, hard work and unselfish unison will carry us over all hurdles and vanquish every foe.

As we gather around the Christmas tree, voices softly rise in singing, "Silent Night," "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen," "The First Noel," "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem," and other beautiful Christmas carols, including "God Bless America."

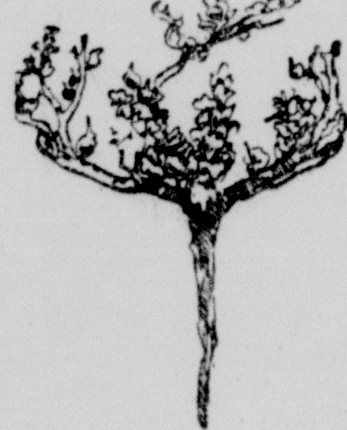
And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:2.

## THE HOLY LAND

### At Christmastime

If you were keeping Christmas in the Holy Land, instead of here in America, you would have no wealth of fir and laurel, holly and mistletoe available for decorations, says William Clark, botanist, in Boston Globe.

You could use lights, candles and lamps, and you could ring bells and explode fireworks, but there would be no green boughs and red berries in the markets.



Rose of Jericho.

Custom and traditions aside, the reason for this is that the Bible lands are not forested like America and Northern Europe. In that arid land, which bakes in the sun from April to November, what trees exist are far too precious to use for decorating—too precious even for fuel. Instead of burning wood as we do in country sections, farmers and shepherds cut the thorny scrub so abundant in Palestine and do their cooking and keep as comfortable as possible with fires of crackling brier twigs.

#### Dismal Season There

Our holly and fir trees would bring welcome color to Jerusalem and Bethlehem now for this is the dismal season there. The winter season begins with rains in November and continues into early March. Cold winds sweep down from the north, bringing snow and sleet to the hills and rain to the plains. Skies are almost constantly cloudy and everywhere there is mud and dreariness. Poor families—and most families are poor in the Holy Land—crouch indoors over their braziers fed with twigs and count the days until the warmth of March, like our May, carpets every hillside and meadow with a wealth of flowers—iris and crocus such as we cherish in our gardens are wild flowers there.

Of all the many shrubby growths of the Holy Land, the thorns are characteristic and of the many kinds, the one most familiar to us—for we grow it as a house plant—is the Crown of Thorns or Christ Thorn. Several botanical species exist but they are generally similar and take their popular name from the legend that this shrub furnished the thorny crown used in mockery upon Jesus. This thorn, of which *Poterium spinosum* is typical, is rather a lovely plant with its gray spines set off by clusters of pink berries. After the summer heat dries the

spring growth, the country folk gather great bundles of this shrub and store it away for fuel, as the thorns give a quick but very hot fire.

#### Rose of Jericho

One odd plant, sometimes grown and sold in America under the name of the Resurrection Plant, is the rose of Jericho. This queer plant is gathered by the thousands and sold in markets throughout the Holy Land because, gathered as a dry and dead ball of twigs, it is no sooner moistened than it opens wide, displaying its heart. Not a rose but one of the mustards, it possesses religious significance for all creeds and sects in the Near East because it is regarded as a symbol of the triumph of life over death.

Almost as common a weed as the rose of Jericho, and widely used as a charm in magical practices, is the mandrake, or *Mandragora officinarum*. This plant contains a very powerful narcotic and can be used either as a poison or as an anesthetic. In the old days, before either was known, doctors sometimes doped their patients with extract of mandragora to dull the pain. The Crusaders discovered the plant and brought it to Europe.

#### Cedars of Lebanon

There are evergreen trees in the Holy Land, although few and far between even on the mountains. Most famous is the Biblical Cedar of Lebanon, which is not a cedar at all as we know it, but rather a pine. This is a truly noble tree, growing upwards of 120 feet, being similar in size and general appearance to our native white pine. These trees have been established in ornamental plantings in America and, while not common, can be grown from New England south although they can do better in the blander climate of the mountains of Virginia and Carolina.

The fig and the olive, trees which are a mite too tender for New England, but which thrive in Florida, Texas and California, have been important trees in the Holy Land since before Christ, for they, along with the date palm, are the chief sources of oil and food in the semi-desert regions.

In the Bible the chestnut is mentioned, as in Genesis, but Europeans there find this tree is really the sycamore and its seedy balls of "fruit" are inedible.

Everywhere in the Bible corn is constantly mentioned, but this is very far from being what we call corn here in the United States. In Palestine, the word "corn" means any cereal plant and is thus used for what we know as barley, millet and wheat.

Melons are very abundant in the Holy Land, being marketed from May right on through to November.

Herbs of various kinds have been

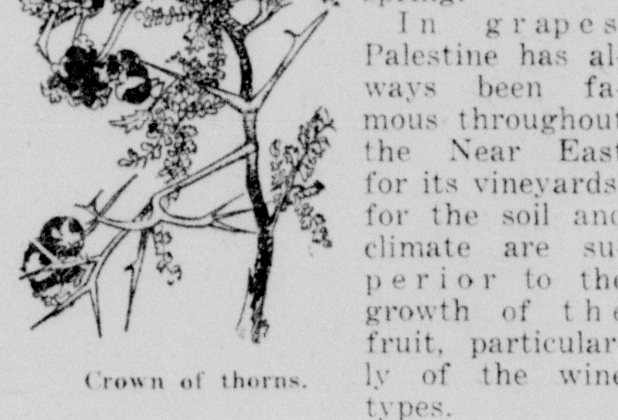
cultivated in Palestine from time immemorial with cummin, often mentioned in Scripture, typical of aromatic seeds used to flavor foods, particularly bread. Cummin is very similar to our native American caraway.

Flax in Biblical times was the common textile plant fibre as cotton was then apparently unknown, although it is now widely grown in the Holy Land. The cotton is the Egyptian variety.

#### Frankincense and Myrrh

Frankincense, myrrh and nard—these fragrant materials, highly prized in Biblical times, as in the gifts of the Wise Men to Christ—may have been produced in the Holy Land in Biblical times, but evidence shows that they came from Arabia and India and hence were so scarce as to be of great value. These gums and resins are still marketed in the Near East.

A lily to the people of the Near East means any striking flower, but generally in the Holy Land the word now refers to the anemone which paints the plains scarlet in the spring.



Crown of thorns.

In grapes, Palestine has always been famous throughout the Near East for its vineyards, for the soil and climate are superior to the growth of the fruit, particularly of the wine types.

Finally, in the word tares, which we Americans usually use to mean weeds, the people of the Holy Land mean a specific grass, a sort of rye, which infests the wheat fields and is as bad as our Johnson grass to exterminate. We have it here as a weed under the name of darnel, but it is not a serious pest as yet.

#### The Star of Bethlehem

The theory has been offered that Venus might have been the Star of Bethlehem. It is said that Venus is especially brilliant when seen from the Holy Land.

For centuries astrologers and astronomers have speculated concerning the star the three wise men of the east followed to Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Jesus. It is assumed that the Star of Bethlehem was not an inner vision, but an actual sign in the heavens. The wise men were themselves astrologers, as indicated by the term magi, and they were accustomed to following closely celestial phenomena.

There are many splendid beauties of the heavens to be seen during the Christmas period. Venus, the gorgeous evening star, is now in the southwestern skies for a short period after sunset.

## HOLLYWOOD'S

### Merry Yuletide

By DEE LOWRANCE

(Copyright, Washington Post)

CHRISTMAS starts days before the 25th of December in Hollywood when Hollywood Boulevard suddenly sprouts silvered Christmas trees on every lamp post. On that day the boulevard becomes "Santa Claus Lane." To prove it, a fat Santa of the most authentic type, complete with bells and a snow-covered sleigh, parades jauntily down the street, with film stars beside him.

There's even a private white cloud of snow, a sort of personal blizzard, that surrounds Santa and his star guests. The guests whoop and yell—full of the Christmas spirit.

About mid-December the hysteria gathers force, rolling later into a gigantic snowball of mirth and gaiety. Then all the lesser studio people begin talking of Christmas in hushed tones. "What do you suppose what's-his-name will give us this year?" In their next breaths, of course, they begin to think of Christmas in their own family terms—the sort of holiday thoughts of regular folks.

The lazy ones among the film stars come alive a few days later. Suddenly, they call on secretaries to get out last year's Christmas list, cross off the names that don't count any more, chew pencils, working out new names to add to the list.

Shopping junkets start early, some late.

#### Gift Habits of Stars

Charity has a big place in Hollywood's Christmas giving. The English group sends food and clothing to Britain. It is revealing to check on the gift habits of the stars. Generally speaking, they are extremely generous. Their hard-earned, but still immense, salaries melt in the month of December.

There are few stars who make their own Christmas presents. But many more than you would imagine have the foresight, and initiative to themselves select the presents they give.

Little Jane Withers is an inveterate gift manufacturer. She wields a mean crochet hook, handles a knitting needle like an expert, loves to create the presents she gives well in advance.

Linda Darnell is another of these. The lovely Linda sketches amusingly. Each year her best friends receive cute Darnell originals, framed for their walls, aimed at their foibles. Carole Landis makes socks for her men friends, knits them on the set.

Stately Greer Garson is a cooking whiz—you wouldn't expect it to look at

her. When she came to this country, she brought an old English recipe for plum pudding. She makes it up into scores of luscious puddings to send to her friends.

Jinx Falkenberg is also kitchen-wise. She makes candied fruits, stuffed dates, salted nuts and packages them for her favorites.

#### Thoughtful Givers

A list of truly thoughtful present givers should be topped by Claudette Colbert. She never forgets personal tastes. After ten years at Paramount, she still



Priscilla Lane, Hollywood star, follows the old custom of singing carols.

sends gifts to people who worked with her when she was starting her career, even though they may have left the studio. And always she remembers their particular preferences. She begins shopping in September and she does it all herself.

Hedy Lamarr is Colbert's twin in this respect. She keeps a blank notebook with her and when she hears a friend mention some particular wish, she jots it down. The notebook is there for reference before she shops. Ruth Hussey is another early shopper.

Bob Hope works out his list carefully, remembering tastes, then sends Mrs. (Continued on Page 3, column 5)



# CURRENT COMMENT

By A STAFF EDITOR

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FOR days there has been great expectations and great preparations. Thoughts of another Christmas prevail over any somber thoughts of the war. Gayety is in the air, joy around the corner.

Christmas shopping has jammed the stores with eager buyers. Christmas trees will be loaded and children will marvel at Santa's generosity. Greetings of "Merry Christmas!" will resound throughout land and sea, candles will beam a welcome, bells will ring and carols proclaim the birth of the Saviour—whose creed was:

"Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do even so to them." Faith through the ages has assured the Christian world that the Star of Bethlehem never will be dimmed. It will shine on after war despots lie mouldering in the grave.

This Christmas time will draw us closer to our dear ones, will make us feel more kindly one to another as we face the future and its perils, whatever they may be. God bless our gallant sons, brothers, husbands and sweethearts in the country's service. God bless America.



## WPB Ask That Holiday Outdoor Lighting Be Omitted

War Production Board asked city officials, civic clubs, Chambers of Commerce, merchants and citizens generally to forego outdoor decorative electric lighting at the Christmas season.

The agency said that such lighting required use of critical materials, electricity and manpower, and was not in line with general conservation programs now in effect. It made the request, the announcement said, partly because of inquiries from local groups for its opinion.

"WPB is not asking that indoor Christmas lighting, whether in the home or in stores, be eliminated," the statement added, "but it believes that outdoor lighting, such as festooned store fronts and decorated streets, must be dispensed with in war time."

## Soldiers to Get Merry Yuletide

Soldiers in army camps from coast to coast will take time off from their war training to enjoy a merry Christmas.

A survey showed that the holiday would be observed with all the American traditions and trimmings.

Men who remain at the cantonments

will have religious services, parties, dances, shows, concerts, gifts, personal appearances of Santa Claus and two million and a half pounds of turkey.

Huge trees, burdened with multi-colored lights, have been set up on military reservations. Holly, red and green bunting and pine boughs have been arranged in mess halls, barracks and recreation centers.

The glow of the family fireside will be experienced by thousands of others who obtained Yuletide furloughs.

But those who received no leaves will be entertained at service and U. S. O. clubs, clubs on the grounds and in gymnasiums and country nearby communities.

## Guns the Best

"One branch in which American military aviation bows to no one is in fire-power," says Frederick Oechsner, United Press foreign correspondent. "American engineers have concentrated on the .50-caliber machine gun and on the 37 mm. and 20 mm. cannon, both of high velocity. Our leading fighters and bombers are both."

"The American A-20A, Douglas light bombers known as the Havoc, has six or more .50-caliber machine guns. The P-47B, Republic single seater fighter, has six or more .50 caliber machine guns. The P-51, North American fighter, has several canon.

"Foreign planes, however, generally use the .30 caliber machine gun. The German Messerschmitt ME-109 fighter has two .30 caliber machine guns and two 20-mm. cannon, but the cannon are of low velocity. The Japanese Zero fighter has two 20 mm. low velocity cannon and two 7.7 mm. guns.

"American fighter pilots therefore can start shooting sooner with more guns of bigger caliber than their opponents. At the same time our bombers are viciously armed against fighter attack. When Flying Fortresses and Liberators are sent out in clusters they present just about as impregnable a force as modern airpower affords," said Oechsner.

## Average \$105.82 Each

The average American had exactly \$105.82 in money in his possession as of October 31, the Treasury announced. That represented \$3.81 more than he had at the end of September and \$28.13

more than he is supposed to have on October 31, 1941.

All this money does not have to be in your pocket. It can be in the bank, the old sock or buried in the ground. It is all figured out on a basis of the amount of currency—nickels, dimes, quarters dollars, etc.—in circulation. Total currency in circulation at the end of October was \$14,224,298,194.

## 3,052 Planes Sent to Russia

Vast quantities of supplies, including 3,052 planes, were sent to Russia by the United States and Britain in the twelve-month period ended in early October, and despite enemy attacks on convoys bound for Russia over the northern route the great bulk of these supplies reached their destination, Richard K. Law, Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, told England's House of Commons.

Giving out exact figures covering the twelve-month period, Mr. Law listed them as follows: 3,052 planes, 4,048 tanks, 30,031 vehicles and 831,000 tons of miscellaneous shipments, including shells, small arms ammunition, machines, machine tools, foodstuffs, medical supplies and nonferrous metals, consisting of nickel and aluminum.

## Dehydrated Foods

Approximately 850,000,000 pounds of dried food products will be turned out by the industry during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1943, and nearly all of it will be taken by the government. Of the total, about 300,000,000 pounds consists of eggs, 400,000,000 of milk, and 150,000,000 of dried fruits and vegetables. Meat production is still small but another 60,000,000 pounds of dried meat is scheduled for next year.

War-time needs have already given the industry a phenomenal growth, the number of companies in the fruit and vegetable field alone expanding from a dozen or so in 1940 to approximately 125 at present. Some of these are so recent that actual production has not yet been started—about 85 new companies were established in the last six months—but the need for further expansion now seems evident.

## 800,000 Forces Overseas

Forces of the American Army overseas now total over 800,000 men.

This became known as the Navy made public a Navy Day letter from General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, to Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet, expressing the thanks of soldiers for "the skillful seamanship that has escorted 800,000 of them safely across the submarine-infested waters of the Atlantic and Pacific."

## Ersatz Coffee Coming

The ersatz brews of roasted cereal grains that have long been substituted for coffee in Europe soon will make their appearance on American menus, informed government officials said.

They disclosed that the big wholesale coffee dealers, in anticipation of coffee rationing, have been experimenting for months on the preparation of coffee substitutes. These will be offered "immediately."

One of the new breakfast brews designed to switch the coffee drinker onto a different beverage, will be made of a small amount of coffee mixed with large proportions of roasted grain. Barley and rye will be the principal ingredients of the ersatz drinks, they said.

Consumers who have stocked up on coffee will have to count all above one pound which they have on hand on November 28 as part of their ration, the Office of Price Administration announced. Deduction of stamps to cover excessive coffee supplies held by individuals will be made when they apply for War Ration Book No. 2, about the first of next year.

The rationing regulations will provide that each consumer must retain in his ration book for later surrender, a coffee stamp for each pound of coffee he possesses in excess of one pound. When he applies for his ration book No. 2 he will be required to declare the amount of coffee he had on hand at the start of consumer rationing.

## Admiral Nimitz Predicts Submarine Warfare Increases

Heavy losses inflicted on the Japanese by Pacific Fleet submarines, preying upon warships and merchant vessels, will increase as America's undersea fleet grows and its personnel gains in experience, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, declared in presenting awards to twenty-five officers and men for heroism.

Admiral Nimitz paid particular tribute to his submarine personnel, remarking that "as an old submariner I well understand the hazards, the hardships and the unceasing vigilance necessary to success in submarine warfare."

## Scrap Metal Drive a Great Success

All evidence to date indicates that the scrap metal drive has been a great success, says the American Institute of Public Opinion.

A survey completed by the institute discloses that about four out of every five American families have either given their scrap to the war effort or had no scrap to give.

Only about one in five still has scrap to be collected or taken to scrap depots. Of the 21 per cent who say they still have scrap which they could give to the government, more than half have already been in contact with their local committees. Only one in ten of those having scrap to contribute has not yet been called upon by local scrap committees.

Using the WPB estimate of 229 pounds of scrap available per family in the country, the institute estimates that the scrap metal drive succeeded in rounding up upward of 3,000,000 tons from American homes. The WPB estimated there were about 3,800,000 tons available in the homes.

The government says there is still a great deal of scrap uncollected on farms, of the heavy kind, that is badly needed.

## Fatal Accidents in the Home

Of the 31,500 fatal accidents in the home last year, 15,750 were caused by falls. Slipping on a small rug on a polished floor, tripping over a rug curled at the edge, stumbling over misplaced furniture, tumbling off a ladder or chair, falling over an object on the stairs, and tripping on a torn stair carpet—all these and other similar accidents may result in injury or death.

Burns and scalds caused 5,800 deaths in the home in 1941. Pots containing scalding water should not be left on the edge of the stove to court disaster, nor should tablecloths upon which pots or cups of hot coffee are resting be so arranged as to be within reach of small children. The 1941 total of fatal accidents of this type represented a reduction of 300 from the previous year.

Accidental poisoning killed 1,550 in the home last year, as compared with 1,650 in 1940. All poisons or other dangerous drugs left in the bathroom, medicine cabinet or elsewhere should be labeled as such and should be provided with distinctive stoppers so that they can be identified even in the dark. And, above all, poisons should be placed well out of reach of little children.

Liquid that boils over is likely to extinguish the gas flame, but gas keeps pouring out of the burner. Poison gas was fatal to 1,150 in 1941, to 1,200 in 1940.

Another source of danger is the improperly installed or connected electrical fixture or appliance in the bathroom, where a wet floor may act as a conductor. Slippery bath tubs or slippery tiling on bathroom floors are a prolific cause of serious accidents.

## 11,138,178 Women Held Jobs in 1940

Women held jobs in almost every classification of labor in 1940, before the feminine rush into war jobs and as replacements for men called into military service, according to figures released recently by the 1940 Census Bureau.

In a survey of 45,166,083 men and women employed in 451 occupations at the 1940 census, the bureau pointed out that 11,138,178 women were employed.

The figures showed that 861 were then employed in blast furnaces and steel works, 4,477 in sawmills, thirteen as "blasters and powder men." 2,114 employed as funeral directors and embalmers, 1,047 as dentists and 106,590 as bakers, blacksmiths, electricians and machinists. The figures showed that there were then fifty-one women aviators as against 5,828 men and 4,761 actresses against 6,931 actors.

## A Fire Marshal's Warning

A warning to use caution in the selection of their Christmas decorations was issued by Fire Marshal Jack Thompson, of Dallas, Texas.

Pointing to the disastrous Boston fire, which snuffed out the lives of nearly 500 persons recently, Thompson has warned that the use of inflammable materials in Christmas tree private and public decorations is extremely hazardous and that only non-inflammable materials should be used.

"A large percentage of the deaths in the Boston fire were caused by the fact that the crowd could not get through the revolving doors of the night club, and also because decorations throughout were of the lightest, driest kind of materials.

## Cotton Gifts Urged for Christmas

Buying practical and useful gifts for Christmas gifts will be the theme of the Cotton Christmas campaign sponsored by the Texas Statewide-Cotton Committee, Burrus Jackson, chairman said.

"A shortage exists in cotton articles, but there are more cotton gifts on merchants' shelves than any other line, especially in practical and useful gifts," Jackson emphasized.

## HOLLYWOOD'S MERRY YULETIDE

(Continued from Page 2)

Hope out to do the actual shopping. Mary Martin likes the fun of her own shopping—her favorite gifts for feminine friends are bags of hand-made lingerie.

The real Lady Bountifuls in gift-giving are Dorothy Lamour and Sonja Henie. Dorothy Lamour has a regular routine followed every Christmas Eve. She gets presents for everyone she works with and has them, wrapped and ready, in her dressing room. The recipients are expected to drop by her studio dressing room and pick them up.

## Generosity Far-Famed

Sonja Henie's generosity is far-famed. She revels in giving. One year she presented her hairdresser with a \$25,000 diamond bracelet, just because the girl admired it! To the boys and girls of the huge skating chorus of a recent picture Sonja gave each a hand-made sweater—in the proper colors and size.

A Gentleman Bountiful is Orson Welles. His friends are showered with presents at Christmas.

Most bachelors are prone to be remiss at Christmas but not Caesar Romero. He has an eye for the newest of feminine conceits, picks all his presents himself and they are ultra smart.

For their wives, several Hollywood husbands have regular routines. Mrs. Don Ameche collects Sheffield silver. She can count on at least one piece each year from Don. Joe Brown loves to give jewels and Mrs. Brown always gets something in that line.

Jack Benny gives checks at Christmas, except to his family and close friends for whom he shops personally. Madeleine Carroll is erratic. Some years she gives lavishly, some not at all. Tyrone Power likes to give luxury versions of practical objects. Bing Crosby likes to give gag presents to friends. He confines his festivities to his home and boys.

Paulette Goddard looks for novel gifts, buys them by the gross. Rita Hayworth buys gallons of perfume, spreads it widely. Alice Faye adores costume jewelry, gives it to feminine pals. Betty Grable likes to give extravagant gifts, things people wouldn't buy for themselves. Loretta Young gives things to gladden a home-maker heart.

Last year Carole Lombard and Clark Gable sent notes saying they planned to give only to a local children's hospital and hoped their friends would do likewise—most of them did, too. Irene Dunne is closely connected with an orphanage and always takes dinner there with the children on Christmas Day.

Brian Donlevy started a new notion last year that his friends all hope he will continue. He gave New Year's presents only, enclosing notes that read: "I know you had a wonderful Christmas, thought a remembrance at New Year's would be fun!"

# Grass Root Reveries

By JOE GANDY  
Winnabow, Texas.

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COON CREEK, where I live, will have an old-fashioned Christmas due to tire and gasoline rationing. Travel in our neck of the woods will be partly via horseback, muleback, burro-back, in wagons, buggies, buckboards, any old contraption with wheels. It's gonna be a lot of fun to see families who own swell automobiles drive up to your house on Christmas day in buggies and wagons. However, it will make Christmas no less merrier. In fact, it will slow us down to where we will have more time for social amenities, more time for getting better acquainted. All these years we have been whizzing by each other at 60 m. p. h. and waving hands; now we will go slow enough to shake hands.

We fuss and fume over gas rationing, but it's the best thing that could have happened to a country gone hog wild on speeding. This is one Christmas in a decade when casualties on the highways will be down to zero. Fewer head end and rear end collisions will make a saner and happier Christmas. I have already built a hitching rack near my front gate. All friends and in-laws need to do is to ride up, or drive up, tie their horses or mules to the hitching rack and holler, "Hello, Joe, here we are!" I'll be right out to greet them with a smile, and a wish for a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Coon Creek is a small community of neighborly, kindly folks who are neither very rich nor very poor. But they are united in the war effort and in buying war bonds and stamps. Furthermore, they are united in having a jolly Christmas. There will be a big community Christmas tree at the school house with gifts on it for every boy and girl. Santa

Claus will remove the gifts from the tree and call out the names of the recipients. The children will look on in wonder and amazement, clap their hands and shout merrily at the most trivial gifts. Groups of singers will sing familiar carols and some groups will sing carols Christmas Eve at homes of neighbors. There will be firecrackers popping, Roman candles swishing, may be a few anvils roaring since the village blacksmith is now back on the job shoeing horses. There will be plenty of eats for everybody—strangers included—such as roasted turkey and cranberry sauce, roasted pig and sweet taters, pumpkin pies, mince pies, fruit cakes, pound cakes, etc. Nobody will go hungry or go around looking lonesome. That's the spirit of Coon Creek and that's the reason we shall have a rip-snortin', merry-go-round, old-fashioned Christmas.

Yes, indeed, there could be worse things than gas rationing and coffee rationing. So let's quit

squawking and make it a Merry Christmas. We have a thousand reasons to be thankful. We still have food, clothing, shelter, health and the best country in all the world. We have millions of brave men and women. Our recent victories in the Solomons and in French Africa shows we have not forgotten how to fight and, believe me, we will be in there fighting to a victorious finish. Let's have faith in ourselves and do a little more praying and a little less bellyaching, a little more working and a little less shirking. So far we have used 50 per cent of our power. Let's use the other 50 per cent and astound the world. We can do it.

If the army continues to take more of our doctors, we may have to fall back on sarsaparilla, mullen's tea and slippery elm bark. These old remedies, administered by our grandmothers, got the

job done and are still efficacious, but most of our dear grandmothers who knew how to administer them have passed on to their reward. Many modern grandmothers wouldn't know how to stop an ordinary stomachache in a 10-year-old boy.

Uncle Sam wanted peanuts this year and he got peanuts—500,000,000 bushels in Texas—not counting what was raised in other States. The peanut, once called the goober, was supposed to be fit only for hogs to eat. A few people ate them occasionally when parched, but they were never regarded as a money crop until one day a chemist discovered that the goober contained high grade oil, similar to the kind of oil America had been importing from Europe and Asiatic countries. From then on the goober was called the peanut and its oil extensively used in the manufacture of cooking fats, soaps, varnishes, paints, lubricants, pharmaceuticals, explosives, etc. Uncle Sam uses peanuts mostly in making explosives. I hope the 500,000,000 bushels of peanuts Texas raised this year will kill 500,000 Japs. Japs are not worth killing, but since we must kill them—maybe all of them—I am willing that one bushel of perfectly good peanuts be used to kill each Jap soldier.

Coffee rationing, now on a par with sugar rationing, has housewives guessing and worrying. The papers say there is coffee for everybody if housewives will not lose their heads and start hoarding it. That's true of other food products. Hoarding brings on rationing and rationing brings on headaches. We can get along with less coffee and be no worse off. Our granddaddies and grandmammies in the South had no coffee the last two years of the War Between the States. They used substitutes—made a brew of parched acorns, parched grains and baked potato peelings. We, too, will come to that before this war is over. Yet I hope the substitutes will not be put up in a fancy cellophane-covered container and labeled "coffee."



# TEXAS BRIEF NEWS--- from Over the State

## TEXAS-RAISED CHICORY

Chicory, used as a blend in coffee, is being produced and shipped by the carload out of Weslaco, (Hidalgo county).

## RARE COIN

Mrs. Fritz Schmidt, of Mason (Mason county), has a United States one cent piece of 1854. It is larger than a silver quarter.

## CAMP HOOD AREA INCREASED

Camp Hood, near Gatesville, will increase in area by 50,000 acres to a total of 185,000, making it one of the largest army installations in the country.

## THIRTEENTH SUBCHASER LAUNCHED

The thirteenth subchaser, built at the Rockport shipyards, was launched November 20. It is 110 feet long in length.

## 4-H GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Eight Grimes county boys have been awarded gold medals for outstanding accomplishments in 4-H club work, said A. C. Pratt, county agent.

## 6 SONS IN ARMY

The war is very real to Mrs. Ida Miller, of Corsicana, who has six of her sons, a grandson and a son-in-law now in the armed forces of the United States.

## AFTER-WAR BOOMED PREDICTED

Texas will become one of the largest industrial states of the nation in its postwar development, Dean W. H. Woolrich, of the School of Engineering of the University of Texas, said.

## ALLOW SALE OF GRADE C MILK

New regulations announced by the State Health Department permit Grade C milk to be sold for home consumption in Texas after it has been pasteurized.

## 20,000,000 ROSE BUSHES ANNUALLY

Jerry Nasits, prominent local nurseryman of Smith county, says 20,000,000 rose bushes are produced annually around Tyler, about half of the world's yearly supply.

## OLD TRAIL DRIVER DIES

Hirman G. Craig, one of the last surviving cowboys who drove cattle from South Texas up the famous Chisholm trail, died in Houston in a local hospital. He was a charter member of the Old Trail Drivers' Association.

## OBSERVES 64th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

One of the oldest married couples in Texas, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Russell, observed their 64th wedding anniversary at San Saba. Both are native Texans.

## KILLED BY LIVE WIRE

Frank O. Richcreek, age 71, dairy farmer near Austin, was electrocuted after falling into a stock tank while running to the scene of a blaze. He was wet from the waist down, firemen said, and stepped on a live wire that had fallen during the blaze.

## 102-YEAR-OLD CONFEDERATE

David Newton Yeary, of 5122 Reiger street, Dallas, Confederate cavalry captain, was 102 years old in October of this year. He is the only surviving member of the Sterling Price Camp. He was born in Lee county, Va.

## DEPARTMENT STORE SALES GAIN

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas reported total net sales of department stores in its district for the first 10 months showed an 11 per cent increase over the first 10 months of 1941, the city gains being San Antonio 20 per cent, Fort Worth 12, Shreveport 13, Houston 11 and Dallas 4.

## CO-EDS HELP FARMERS

Three hundred and sixty-nine students of Texas State College for Women, at Denton, have volunteered their services, and have organized groups to help the farmers gather their crops or perform other necessary farm chores. Farmers furnish the working equipment and transportation.

## "MISS AMERICA" SELLS WAR BONDS

Jo-Carroll Dennison, the 18-year-old Tyler girl who won the title of Miss America at Atlantic City this year, returned to her home town recently for the first time since she was proclaimed the nation's most beautiful girl. Miss Dennison greeted her townspeople with a plea to buy war bonds. She sold \$72,000 worth.

## "EMPTY YOUR PURSE DRIVE"

The "Empty Your Purse Drive," launched at Corpus Christi by the Alpha Phi Chapter of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority, got off to a good start as containers, which had been placed in seven downtown stores, were rapidly filled. The drive sought empty lipstick tubes, metal tops of cosmetic jars, compacts and costume jewelry. Sponsored nationally by the War Production Board, the drive needed material usually found in women's hand bags.

## OLD SLAVE DIES

Alf Sattwhite, who was brought to Texas from Alabama as a slave by Mrs. Mildred T. Littlefield, of Gonzales, died at the reputed age of 100 years. He was the father of 38 children.

## STICKS WITH JOB, LOSES LIFE

Mitchell Church, age 66, could have retired on pension, but he insisted on staying with his oil refinery job at Port Arthur because of labor shortage. Recently he was knocked by a car from a bicycle near the plant and killed.

## LEADS IN MAGNESIUM PRODUCTION

Texas leads the nation in magnesium production, a vital metal in aircraft construction. Most of the magnesium produced in Texas is extracted from sea water. Almost as strong as steel, it is lighter than some wood.

## PROTEST GASOLINE RATIONING

A protest against gasoline rationing of four gallons a week as unfair to West Texas, an area of light population density and long hauls, was made by the West Texas Chamber of Commerce in a telegram to Price Administrator Leon Henderson.

## SEVEN BROTHERS WORK IN WAR PLANT

Seven brothers work in the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation plant near Fort Worth. They are the Mueir brothers, all born on a farm in Collin county, where their parents still live. "Mother had 14 children and when we all get together for a family reunion it's really something," said Dave Mueir.

## NEGRO BUYS 5 WAR BONDS

"Chas. Lee, a negro Victory leader in East Caney community, (Hopkins county), purchased five \$18.75 bonds and plans to purchase three more bonds. Other negroes have been purchasing bonds, too," said H. W. Grays, negro county agent.

## POEM BRINGS LETTER AND MARRIAGE

Miss Martell Smalley, of Dallas, wrote a poem entitled, "It's Nice to Get a Letter." The poem, published in a leading Texas daily newspaper, was read by Pvt. H. M. McGee, of Fort Bliss, El Paso. He wrote Miss Smalley, complimenting the poem, and after a few weeks of correspondence they met and were married in El Paso.

## HUSBAND AND WIFE JOIN ARMY

Owen Hollis Eagan and Mattie Mabel Eagan stood before Maj. Bert H. Davis at the army recruiting station in Dallas and took oaths of service. Eagan became a radio technician in the Army Air Force and his wife is a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

## UNCLE SAM HIS BENEFICIARY

Douglas Pond, age 21, joined the Marine Corps at Houston and, having no known living relatives, named his Uncle Sam as beneficiary. He said his assets amounted to \$40 which he had saved and was going to use immediately to buy war bonds.

## RAPACIOUS COYOTE

C. R. Landon, district agent for the U. S. Fish and Wild Life Service, at San Antonio, reported that a coyote captured in Bastrop county recently was estimated to have killed 500 turkeys and 450 mutton sheep valued at \$3,800.

## PURPLE HEART MEDAL 24 YEARS LATE

Twenty-four years after he was wounded in the Argonne forest of France, John R. Steele, Houston accountant, has received a purple heart decoration from the War Department. Steele was wounded during the Rainbow Division's offensive on November 2, 1918. Inscribed on the medal was the citation: "For wounds received in action and for extraordinary heroism on the firing line, November 2, 1918."

## SENDS RABBIT FEET TO SOLDIERS

Shamrock Texan: "A. R. Hugg is not only helping in the letter writing campaign to soldiers that is under way in Shamrock, (Wheeler county), but is going other correspondents one better. He is sending each of his friends in the service a rabbit's foot for good luck."

## VALLEY CITRUS SHIPMENTS

Valley citrus shipments for the 1942-43 season through November 16 totaled 5,539 cars, compared with 4,984 at the same date last season, according to figures compiled by the Federal-State Market News Service.

## ARMCHAIR GARDENER

C. L. Veriege, 72-year-old retired blacksmith of Hillsboro, (Hill county), is an armchair Victory gardener who actually works at the job. Crippled, and forced to garden from his chair, he has cleared a large plot of bermuda grass and raised three crops of vegetables as a contribution to the war effort.

## MISTAKEN FOR TURKEY, FATHER SLAIN BY SON

Mistaken for a turkey as he sat in a tree, hunting deer 13 miles east of Bandera, (Bandera county), O. E. Niemeyer, age 41, was shot and instantly killed by his son, Lawrence, age 16. A verdict of accidental death was returned by a justice of the peace. Sheriff W. H. Burns, of Bandera, who investigated, said the father had climbed the tree shortly after dawn and was waiting for deer when the fatal shot was fired.



## Deck the Hall

(An old Welsh carol)

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,  
'Tis the season to be jolly.  
Don we now our gay apparel,  
Troll the ancient yuletide carol.

See the blazing log before us,  
Strike the harp and join the chorus.  
Follow me in merry measure,  
While I tell of Christmas treasure.

Swiftly the old year passes,  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses.  
Sing we joyous all together,  
Heedless of the wind and weather.

## PRICE-FIXING NOT NEW

W. B. Harrell, counselor for the OPA at Austin, says that price-fixing was used as far back as the year 1200 in England, when the price of bread was fixed.

## NIMITZ PICTURE IN MUSEUM

An autographed picture of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, of Fredericksburg, Texas, has been placed in a collection of patriotic items in Texas memorial museum on the University of Texas campus.

## SOPHOMORES DO THEIR BIT

Sophomore co-eds in the University of Texas will do their bit in the war effort by writing letters and preparing scrap books of jokes, puzzles and cartoons to be sent to soldiers in the hospitals at Camp Swift.

## REDUCES TO GET IN ARMY

S. D. Flowers, Dallas fireman, was rejected by the recruiting officer because he weighed 236 pounds. But Flowers, determined to join the armed forces, reduced his weight to 194 pounds and is now an aviation cadet. "I got rid of 40 pounds," Flowers said, "by eating less and exercising more."

## 19 GRANDCHILDREN IN ARMED FORCES

Mrs. Emma Costlow, of LaRue, (Henderson county), is justly proud of her contribution to the war effort. She has 19 grandchildren serving in the armed forces. Nearly every branch of the service is represented in the group.

## TYPICAL TEXAS HOME

A typical Texas home in 1940 was a frame detached house with 2 to 5 rooms built sometime since 1910, according to statistics reported by the Census Bureau.

Of the State's 1,904,884 dwelling units, the bureau found that 1,437,513 were one-family detached homes, while only 6,119 were large-size apartments for 20 or more families. The detached homes accounted for practically 80 per cent of all dwellings in the State. Wood was the principal building material, 1,422,282 homes being wood. Of the other types of construction only 38,435 were of stucco, 82,962 of brick and 43,638 of other materials.

## WOMEN TRAINED AS FIREMEN

Jacksonville Journal: "Setting the pace in East Texas for civilian defense training and to meet possible war-time emergencies, the Jacksonville (Cherokee county), fire department will begin training an auxiliary department to be composed entirely of women of the city in a short time."

## 610,575,000 POUNDS OF SCRAP SHIPPED

Official War Production Board figures reveal that Texas has actually shipped by rail 610,575,000 pounds of scrap iron in five months with much more scrap in stockpiles ready to be shipped. This is a per capita State average of 101.76 pounds.

## OLD SABER GOES TO WAR AGAIN

Denison's scrap metal heap received one of its historic contributions when W. Y. Parrott donated the cavalry saber used by his father, Josiah Parrott, in America's war with Mexico. "It served Texas once," Mr. Parrott said, "and I thought it only right that the metal be used again in the present war."

## SHIP NAMED BIG FOOT WALLACE

The Maritime Commission has announced approval of the name Big Foot Wallace for a Liberty ship whose launching will be sponsored by school children of Texas. The Texas pupils suggested the name. W. A. A. Wallace, better known as Big Foot because of the immense size of his feet, was a renowned Texas frontiersman and Indian and Mexican fighter.

## MESQUITE BEANS, COFFEE SUBSTITUTE

Eastern coffee roasting firms have been telegraphing and writing West Texas chambers of commerce as to where they might purchase mesquite beans which, they said, were being considered as a substitute for coffee.

## BREAKS RIFLE SCORE RECORD

Houston Post: "Pvt. Houston Parish, of Tyler, broke the record for rifle shooting in the officers training school at Aberdeen, Md. His score was 190 out of a possible 200. An odd thing about the top-notch record is that Parish never owned a gun or handled one to any extent before entering the army."

## A. & M. MASCOT GETS INTO MOVIES

Reveille, black and white canine mascot of A. & M. College, has been assigned a role in the movies. The movie makers who chose Texas A. & M. campus for their new military epic, had never heard of Reveille until they gave her a screen test. She will go to Hollywood as a star performer.

## REGAINS SIGHT AFTER YEARS OF BLINDNESS

Mitchell P. Harrison, 86-year-old Bowie county pioneer, regained his eyesight by an operation after 10 years of blindness. He was pleased with everything he had so far seen, he said, except women wearing slacks and smoking.

## PREACHER RESIGNS TO JOIN ARMY

Rev. Marce Perdue, resigning as pastor of the Palestine Baptist Church, announced his intention of joining the armed forces. "This is a preacher's war just as much as anybody else's war," he said. "If we lose the war, the preachers will be in a pretty pickle."

## SCRAP SALVAGED FROM OLD BRAZOS RIVER DAM

Thousands of pounds of scrap metal in the lock and dam in the Brazos river near Old Washington will be salvaged for the war effort. The lock and dam was built by the Federal government about 30 years ago, and was later abandoned.

## DEBT PAID AFTER 31 YEARS

A. L. Lockey, who was in the grocery business in Muenster, (Cooke county), years ago recently received a registered letter in the mail for \$65 with a letter from a woman who said she moved from Muenster 31 years ago, owed Mr. Lockey a grocery bill at the time she moved and she hoped the \$65 would pay the bill with interest. "Her bill was \$25," said Lackey.

## SOLDIER APPRECIATES KIT BAG GIFT

Staff Sergeant James Henderson, a West Texan, with a bomb squadron somewhere in the Pacific, wrote the following letter to Jones county Red Cross women:

"It seems that the gift bag brought me closer to home than I have been since the beginning of the war. How could America lose this war with such evidence of your work and that of other war relief organizations."

## DOCTOR SHORTAGE

Pittsburg Gazette: "Old timers in East Texas are beginning to see the need for the return of the country doctor, because of a war-time shortage of doctors. Thirty years ago there was a country doctor in every community in East Texas. They traveled by buggy or horseback, and their devotion to duty through all kinds of weather is an epic in the pioneer life of this region. Many of them died from exposure suffered in making cross-country calls in the dead of night through sub-freezing weather."

## GIRLS RIDING RANGE

Ralph Cooper, editor of the Coastal Cattleman, who has been visiting some of the Texas ranches says: "The girls are already beginning to ride the cattle ranges and it isn't too much to say they may save the cattle industry of Texas. The cowboys are going to war, and to defense industries for better pay. One ranch is selling out, lock, stock and barrel, because it cannot get help, and the labor situation is becoming serious. Women riders may be able to save the day."

By Boughner

## MAC





# A LITTLE FUN Jokes to Make You Laugh

## Bright Idea

Little Boy: "Mother! Mother! give me a nickel for a poor man who is out in front crying."  
Mother: "Surely. Poor man, what is he crying about?"  
Little Boy: "He's crying: 'Fresh peanuts, 5 cents a bag!'"

## New Use for Directory

Man (waiting impatiently outside a public telephone booth): "I wonder if you'd mind letting me put in a call?"  
Woman (casually): "Not at all, I was just looking through the telephone book trying to find a good name for my new baby."

## Proud Father

"Your wife just gave birth to an 8-pound girl baby this morning," read the telegram to the new father.  
Attached to the message was a sticker reading: "When you want a boy, call Western Union."

## Partnership With the Lord

Uncle Shadrack Jones bought himself a badly run-down farm in the poorest part of Virginia. For three years he slaved almost hopelessly, working incredibly long hours, and at last had his reward—a farm that produced the necessities of life.

Then, one Sunday, the visiting parson called on Uncle Shadrack. "That's a right smart patch of yams," said the clergyman, impressed by the old man's fine garden. "Looks like you and the Lord sure is in partnership on them."

Uncle Shadrack pointed to his wheat field.

"Looks more'n ever you and the Lord is partners," the preacher said.

And so they walked through all the reclaimed fields, Shadrack pointing out how he had transformed the barren land into fertile acres, the preacher reiterating that Shadrack and the Lord were partners in the good work. Finally, as the preacher was climbing into his buggy, the old farmer spoke up.

"Reverend, I agree with all you say about me and the Lord being in partnership. I agree with every word. But, Reverend, I jest wish you could a seen this place when the Lord was runnin' it by Himself!"

## Classified Ad

FOUND—Lady's purse left in my car while parked. Owner can have same by paying for this ad. If she will explain to my wife how the purse got there I will pay for the ad myself. Phone 6630-W.



## Couldn't Fool Him

He had spent the evening imbibing too freely and was trying to fit his key into the lock. After a time a head looked out of the window above.

"Go away, you fool," cried the man upstairs; "you're trying to get into the wrong house."

"Fool yourself!" shouted the man below, indignantly. "You're looking out of the wrong window."

## His First Jump

A newly inducted parachutist received terse orders from his commanding officer before his first jump.

"Remember," he was told, "pull the first rip-cord after you count to ten. If the parachute doesn't open, pull the second cord. When you land a jeep will be waiting to bring you back to camp. That's all."

The soldier jumped. He counted to ten very slowly, and pulled the cord. Nothing happened. He pulled the second cord. Nothing happened.

"Geewhiz!" he exclaimed. "I bet the jeep won't be there, either."

## Modern Problem

Visitor (in defense plant): "Look at that youngster, the one with the cropped hair, the cigaret and overalls on. It's hard to tell whether it's a boy or girl."

War Worker (in defense plant): "She's a girl and she's my daughter."

Visitor: "My dear, sir, do forgive me. I would never have been so outspoken if I

had known you were her father."

War Worker: "I'm not her father, I'm her mother."

## Right From Wrong

Teacher: "And I suppose you learned right from wrong at your mother's knee?"

Johnny: "No, across my mother's knee."

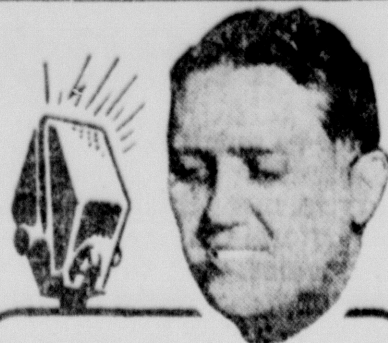
## BUNKER HILL

Bunker Hill monument is closed for the duration. Tens of thousands of Americans have struggled up the 295 stone steps in the ninety-nine years since the shaft was dedicated. There Colonel Prescott gave the command: "Don't fire till you see the whites of their eyes," and there Dr. Joseph Warren fell in the last fusillade of the first real battle for American freedom. Lafayette laid the cornerstone of the smoky-gray, stolid, Quincy-granite obelisk fifty years to the day after the battle. Daniel Webster delivered one oration then, and another at the dedication eighteen years later. He admitted that the monument was no beauty. He said: "It is a plain shaft but it looks, it speaks, it acts to the full comprehension of every American mind and the awakening of glowing enthusiasm in every American heart." So it does today. But its four sightseeing windows at the top afford views of the Charlestown Navy Yard and many war-production plants. So it is closed to visitors.

## U. S. CHURCHES

According to latest figures, there are 241,410 churches in the United States. These have a total of 64,159,248 members, of which 21,322,688 are Roman Catholics; 4,081,242 Jewish; 3,796,645 negro Baptist; 7,385,638 Methodist Episcopal; 4,595,602 Southern Baptist; 1,942,322 Protestant Episcopal; 3,796,645 Northern Baptist.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. St. Matthew 2:1.



Burrus Mills Present

## "NORTON McGIFFIN in the News"

An expert at concise, revealing news analysis, Norton McGiffin will come to you daily at 12:30 noon, Monday thru Friday over

## Texas Quality Network

WBAP, Fort Worth  
WFAA, Dallas  
WOAI, San Antonio  
KPRC, Houston  
A Radio Feature of  
BURRUS MILL & ELEVATOR CO.  
BURRUS FEED MILLS

## HOW SYNTHETIC RUBBER IS MADE

How does it happen that rubber can be made from such diverse materials as petroleum and alcohol? The answer is that butadiene, the compound which is transformed into rubber, can be obtained from petroleum or from alcohol.

This butadiene is a hydrocarbon. Petroleum and alcohol are also hydrocarbons. To get the butadiene it is enough to juggle the atoms of hydrogen and carbon in whatever combination they may be found. Let this butadiene stand and it turns into rubber by a process called

polymerization, a tough word which means that molecules arrange themselves into chains and thus become rubber. Since industrial chemists cannot afford to lose time they hasten polymerization by catalysis, a process that hastens chemical reaction.

## BIG SHARK FISHING INDUSTRY

Shark fishing off the South Florida East Coast has been catapulted from a more or less despised calling to a vital defense industry. The reason is the urgent demand for shark liver oil, which is particularly rich in vitamin A and D. Shark liver oil is largely replacing Norwegian cod liver oil, now impossible to import.

Salerno, on Manatee Creek, up St. Lucie river, is the center of the revived and now flourishing shark industry. The sharks are caught on mile-long chain trot-lines, baited with chunks of coarse fish every 25 feet, set on the edge of the Gulf stream bottom and left overnight. The ends of the line are anchored and marked with buoys.

Hauled to the surface the next morning by winches, the sharks are clubbed, brought to port and flayed. The livers are boiled for the oil, which is barreled and shipped to Northern extracting plants. A shark's liver produces anywhere from two to 25 gallons of oil.

Every housewife needs an occasional screw or bolt, or nail. Salvage these from packing boxes, burned buildings, old boards, sort and save them in a nail box in the kitchen.

What! could ye not watch with me one hour? Mat. 26:40.

## WANTED

Men and women with 2 years college training in mathematics, physics, civil engineering or geology.

—AND—  
Men with training or experience in radio, television or electronics

WRITE

NATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL CO.

1005 Tower Petroleum Building,  
DALLAS, TEXAS.

Wooden soled shoes, designed to conserve war essential leather, are now being produced by a Midwest State shoe manufacturer. Hard maple and sugar pine are the woods used.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:14.



## INDOOR Holiday Decorations

By HENRY B. AUL

Fresh greens, fashioned into ropes, garlands and wreaths, woven into shapes symbolic of the holiday season furnish a basic material for indoor decorations. Shiny tree ornaments, candles and miniature toys, colored berries and gay ribbons will contribute brilliant high lights to the work. If the evergreen materials are sprayed or dipped with a latex preparation now available, dropping of needles or drying out of foliage and the loss of fresh green color will be reduced considerably.

Candles exude the Christmas spirit as nothing else does and their soft, persistent light somehow dispels any lurking gloom.

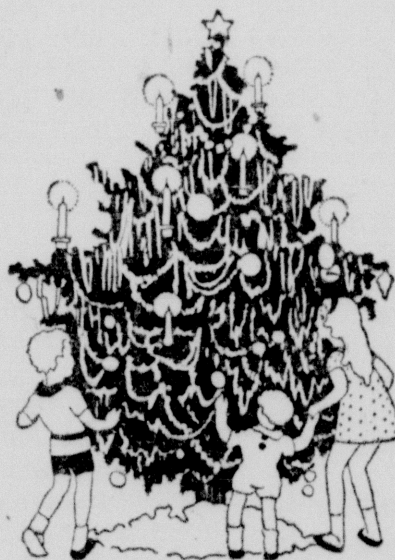
The indoor appearance of the electric candle in the window is enhanced with a base arrangement of mixed greens, berries and cones held together with a small ribbon bow. Holly, mistletoe, oak leaves or pine sprigs are good materials to use here. The outdoor appearance of the lighted candle will be given an out-of-

the-ordinary effect if a green, blue or golden cellophane star is placed against the inside of the pane directly in front of the candle flame. It is not difficult to imagine the striking effect created with all windows in the front of the house treated thus. The larger pyramidal-shaped groups of candles might have three or more stars in graduated sizes ranged across the win-

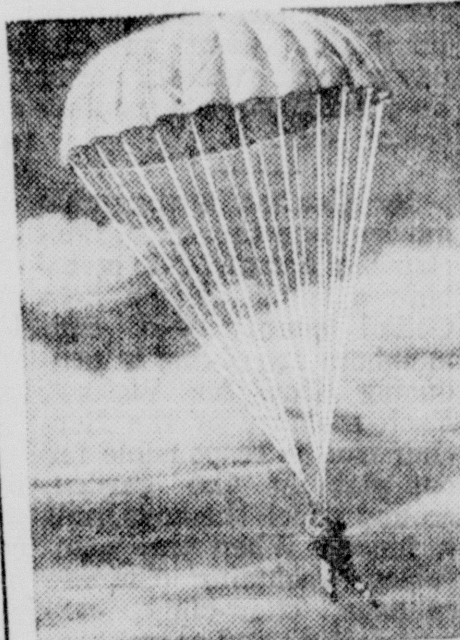
dows above them. A large central star could be flanked with smaller ones.

Other candles used singly or in groups play a large part in the Christmas scene. Against a dark background try all-white candles with dark pine branches arranged around their base. The green branches might be made to sparkle with pure white popcorn or tiny silver tree ornaments.

Besides these materials, tiny toy horns, silver bells and other ornaments are used with red ribbons in bows and rosettes to give the green a festive look. Archways, doorways, mantels and windows lend themselves to festoons of colorful green roping.



THERE SHE GOES! A 24-year-old veteran of the "silk" is making the first jump test of a new nylon 'chute. Watch as she pulls the rip-cord—



IT OPENS! It holds! It's okay! And so is Adeline Gray as she floats earthward to the approval and applause of Army and Navy observers.



A PERFECT LANDING—and now for a Camel. And when Adeline Gray says: "Camels suit me to a T," she's talking a language any smoker can understand (see right).

Watch ADELINE GRAY try Uncle Sam's new nylon 'chute in its first

# Live Test

That's the proving ground of a parachute—just as the "T-Zone" is the proving ground of your cigarette (see below)

YOU can test them in laboratories and wind tunnels... You can toss them out with weighted dummies...

But the final test of a parachute is the "live test"—when you step out in mid-air in an actual jump.

And it's like that with cigarettes, too. The final test of any brand is when you light it and smoke it.

Adeline Gray, a steady Camel smoker, can tell you: "Camels are milder all ways."

Many a man at the front could tell you the same—Camels are the favorite pack there, too. But only your own "T-Zone" can tell you the cigarette that suits you best.

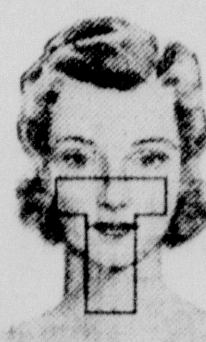
TASTE AND THROAT THAT'S MY TEST OF A CIGARETTE. AND THE BRAND FOR ME IS CAMEL. THEY'RE GRAND!

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(Based on actual sales records in Post Exchanges and Canteens.)



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The "T-ZONE"—Taste and Throat—is the proving ground for cigarettes. Only your taste and throat can decide which cigarette tastes best to you... and how it affects your throat. For your taste and throat are absolutely individual to you. Based on the experience of millions of smokers, we believe Camels will suit your "T-ZONE" to a "T." Prove it for yourself!

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contain a variety of healthful ingredients, concentrated into uniform size pellets for your feeding convenience.



# Texas Farm News Reports

Texas farmers pocketed \$545,000,000 cash income for the first nine months of 1942 compared with \$341,000,000 during the corresponding period of 1941, the University of Texas Bureau of Business Research reported.

"Texas turkey growers should select breeders for 1943 before all of their better birds have been sold. It is only by selecting breeders now that we can maintain the improvement which has been so pronounced during the past five or six years," said George P. McCarthy, poultryman for the A. & M. College Extension Service.

Jack Booth, age 15, Harris county 4-H club boy this year grew 15 acres of truck crops as his part in winning the war. Jack's record has been submitted for competition in the National 4-H club boys' garden contest. His father is employed in Houston and Jack worked the truck crop himself, at the same time feeding out 25 head of hogs for his father, says C. W. Jackson, county agricultural agent.

Texas farm families who have geese may find plucking their birds will add a few extra dollars to the farm income, says Myrtle Murray, specialist in home industries for the A. & M. College Extension Service. She adds that there are numerous war uses of feathers which have increased the price to growers. Down is used in making flying suits for aviators and in sleeping bags which protect soldiers in 40 degrees below zero temperatures.

Jaunice and Bonice West, 11-year-old twins of the Temple Spring 4-H club of Jasper county, make peanut butter for their school lunches. Recently they were invited to tell fellow club members their method of making it.

When informed that his 4-H club gilt was Walker county's champion and that he would receive a registered Jersey calf as a prize, Otis Robinson, first year member of the San Jacinto 4-H club, made this reply to County Agricultural Agent G. H. Richards: "This is the first time in my life that I have owned anything of value. I am proud of both animals and happy that I am a 4-H boy. I promise that I will do my best to make good with my projects."

Many Grayson county farm women are working in the fields 14 hours a day to meet the farm labor shortage. They are also buying war bonds and stamps to the limit of their incomes.

Turkey buyers have warned turkey growers that only prime, mature and well-developed birds must be brought to market. The government will be a big buyer of the nation's turkey crop this year, but is in the market for only prime birds, it was explained. Hence growers are urged to fatten their birds as rapidly as possible.



Soon to grace the Christmas tables of America, this turkey and his kin is already on the way to points where our troops are stationed. Men in service will have plenty of turkey for Christmas meals. This year's crop of domestic turkeys is estimated at 33,786,000, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Fall is sauerkraut-making time, according to Mrs. Elsie Gilkerson, home demonstration agent for Nolan county. "Kraut is rich in vitamin C, and aids in preventing scurvy," Mrs. Gilkerson says. "It may be made from fall turnips or from lettuce, as well as from cabbage."

Hale county 4-H club boys have 65 of the best type of calves on feed, and more are to be bought soon, says Ollie F. Linder, assistant county agricultural agent. The boys vision a profitable year with plentiful pasture and home grown feeds. Sixteen of the boys have a total of 350 lambs in feed lots.

Twice as much flax is being planted by Refugio county farmers this year as never before, County Agent L. A. Weiss, Jr., said. He estimated that around 3,000 acres of flax was being cultivated in the county, most of it of the Golden Viking and Rio varieties.

A small fortune has been harvested on the D. D. Bowman farm a mile north of Plainview, (Hale county). Bowman recently marketed 1,200 pounds of white Spanish onion seed for around \$4,000 from two and a half acres.

An extra two dollars per ton is in store for growers of oil peanuts who deliver their peanuts in sacks instead of in bulk. No extra payments will be made for bagged quota peanuts, according to B. F. Vance, chairman, Texas USDA war board.

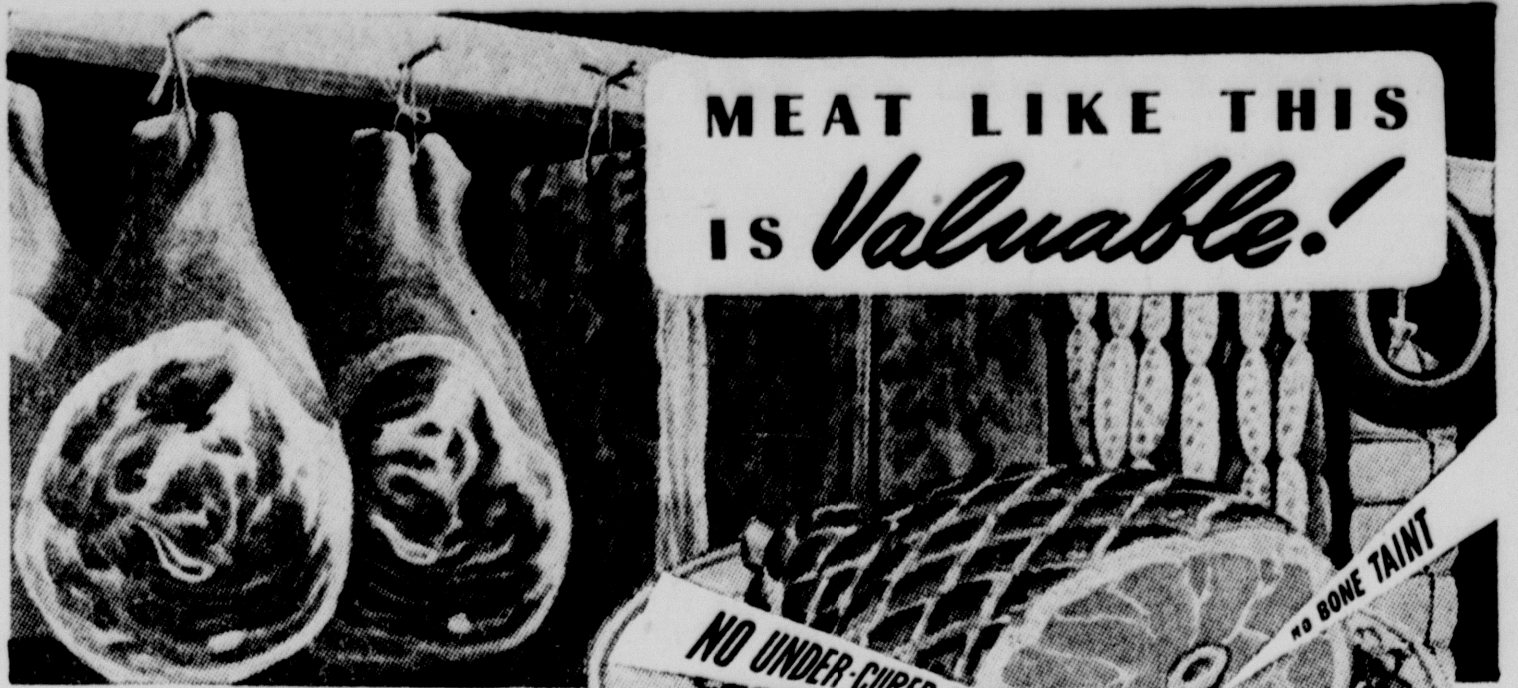
Evelyn Taylor didn't pause in her war effort when her brother, Roger, was reported missing after the fall of Corregidor last May. A member of the Bald Prairie 4-H club of Robertson county, she helped her mother can 400 quarts of food for the family, collected more than 500 pounds of scrap iron and turned in 95 pounds of rubber. She bought war stamps from their sale.

Twenty-five to 50 per cent increase in corn yield is consistent, according to H. C. Lueck, of the Oscar, community, (Bell county), when corn follows peas planted on oats stubble land.

Clifton Record: "J. D. Alexander, retired college football coach now farming four miles west of Clifton, (Bosque county), thinks a production record may have been established by one of his registered Hampshire sows. In October of last year the sow farrowed 17 pigs, raised them all, repeated the feat in April and the other day brought 18 more, of which 16 lived, a total of 55 pigs in a year."

Growers in the Rio Grande Valley have been asked by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard to shift production from the so-called luxury vegetables and the most popular salad constituents to production of more essential food vegetables, such as carrots, onions, spinach, lima and snap beans, and similar crops.

The David Ramsey farm, near San Marcos, (Hays county), raised 500 Baby Beef turkeys this year. "Lots of folks don't know the difference between a Baby Beef turkey and the ordinary variety. Well, the difference becomes apparent when one is baked. There's about twice as much white meat as on the ordinary turkey. They have a breast almost as big, in proportion, as that of a quail. Expert buyers are wanting the broad-breasted type turkey," Ramsey said.



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**THEN . . .**  
Rub with MORTON'S SUGAR-CURE. This complete sugar curing salt strikes in from the outside — gives a thorough cure and rich wood-smoke flavor. Morton's Tender-Quick and Sugar-Cure, used together, give results you can get in no other way.

**For Delicious Sausage . . .**  
Use Morton's Sausage Seasoning. It contains salt, sage, peppers and tasty spices — perfectly blended and ready to use. Just mix with the meat and grind. No measuring or guesswork . . . the same perfectly flavored sausage every time.

North Texas pecan growers blamed the heavy rains of last spring for the almost complete failure of the pecan crop this year. The April rains did not permit the blooms to pollenize, W. R. Yearly, Federal supervisor, said.

Maintaining an average of 200 pounds per day over a month of cotton picking, Jack Harvey, 17-year-old boy in the J. H. Harvey family, of Grayson county, hit a high point in one day's work recently when he put 233 pounds into his cotton sack.

By planting a vegetable garden near the school Berclair boy and girl club members exemplified the help Goliad county 4-H club members are giving in producing Food for Victory. Each member of the Berclair club is responsible for one plot in the garden, around which the boys built a fence. When the vegetables, including Chinese cabbage, chew-chew, carrots, lettuce and onions mature, girl club members will give a demonstration on the preparation of tasty salads at a community 4-H club day. Margaret L. Cole, county home demonstration agent, says that "the fine work and co-operation in the Berclair club is due largely to the co-operation of the sponsors."

Approximately \$6,000 or more will be earned by the members of the Pampa high school agriculture classes this year, Hood Willis, teacher of agriculture, announced. An average of two projects per boy will go to make up this total. One project is the raising of 18 sows and 112 fall pigs consisting of Hampshire, Duroc Jersey, Spotted Poland China, and Chester White breeds.

Denton county 4-H boys, after instruction in fire prevention by County Agricultural Agent G. E. Warren, prepared a plan under which each house will be inspected for fire hazard by a neighbor. After each boy inspects his own home and corrects fire dangers, a neighbor is asked to check his work to see whether he can find anything the boy overlooked.

Whitesboro News: "Grown by B. D. Shook, three miles west of Whitesboro, (Grayson county), a tomato vine which had more than 300 tomatoes on it when it was brought to town, has been on display. The vine is about eight feet tall and with many branches. It is of the improved Porter variety and produces a delicious small pink tomato. Most of its production is in the fall and it is reported capable of producing up until the most bitter part of the winter."

The draft board interrupted his year's projects, but before joining the fighting forces in October Leslie Haas, Lavaca county 4-H club boy, reported some big achievements to County Agricultural Agent G. C. King. His demonstrations, counting from the first of the year, comprised 13 calves, 33 hogs and 303 laying hens. The pigs were increased by nine litters, and the poultry by a brood of 352 in February and 340 in May. He netted \$291.57 from sale of the calves, and \$600.65 from sale of the pigs. He had 49 hogs, valued at \$675.75, remaining. After paying expenses Haas had a profit of \$460.64 from the sale of eggs, fryers and culled hens. The family ate about \$50 worth of eggs and chickens. "From this report," says County Agent King, "it can be seen that Leslie did a good year's work and produced much to aid his government in this trying time."

After forty years of experimenting and field tests in various parts of the South, International Harvester Company announces it is ready to manufacture a successful cotton-picking machine, if the government so desires, said Fowler McCormick, president of the firm.

Washington county 4-H club girls have invested \$3,816.40 in war bonds and stamps. According to Myrna Holman, county home demonstration agent, this is an average of \$39.75 for those owning the securities, or an average of \$24.77 for each club girl in the county.

A flock of 1,300 turkeys have been raised by Mr. and Mrs. Finney Bevil, of Yantis, (Hopkins county). These successful turkey raisers followed a careful and scientific program of feeding and care for the blooded Baby Beef strain which they started with 30 hens and three toms as breeding stock last November. When the turkeys are three and one-half months old, the average weight is 13½ to 14½ pounds.

The Palestine Kiwanis Club recently bought five registered Duroc gilts and placed them with selected Anderson county 4-H club boys on an exchange basis. The club also established a fund of \$25 for premiums to be offered the boys in a plan to be determined later. According to Assistant County Agricultural Agent Tom Stokes, the boys receiving the pigs will return to the sponsor the best gilt from the first litter, with papers, at nine weeks of age. If the pig dies, the boy is to replace it or pay the club the purchase price of \$10.

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FAST, SMOOTH, FIRM. P.A.'S  
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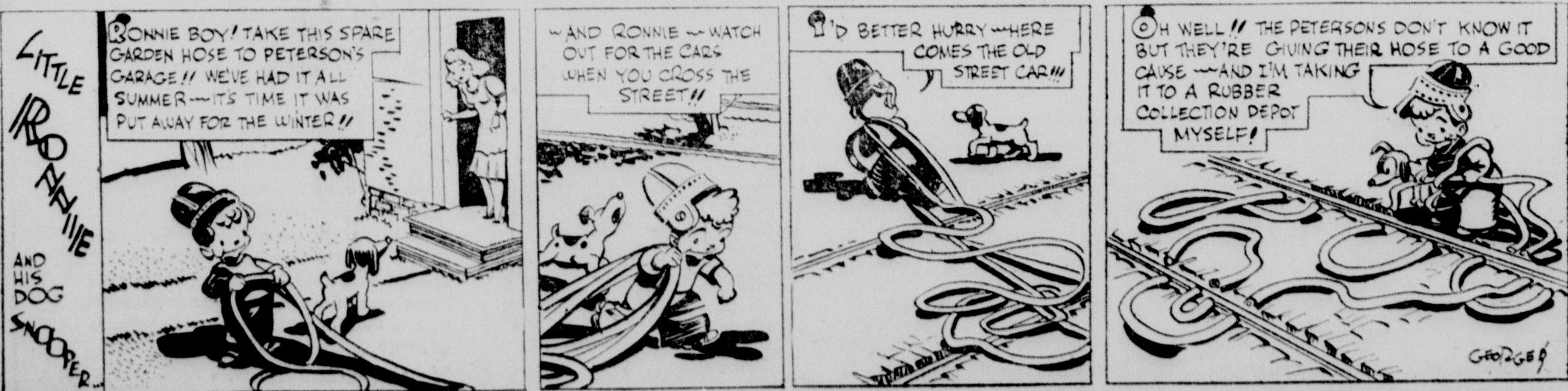
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THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE

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## LITTLE RONNIE



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BE HAVING A BIG FAMILY LIKE  
MAMA. NOW THAT YOU HAVE  
THAT SHOT OF CUTTER  
ABORTION VACCINE**

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**CUTTER Laboratories** - Berkeley, Calif.  
**SAN ANTONIO AND FORT WORTH**



## THE MISTLETOE

The mistletoe was an object of veneration among our pagan ancestors in very early times, and probably as it was the golden branch referred to by Virgil, in his description of the descent to the lower regions, it may be assumed to have been used in the religious ceremonies of the Greeks and Romans. It was held sacred by the Druids and Celtic nations, who attributed to it valuable medicinal qualities. The Gothic nations also attached extraordinary qualities to it. The Druids celebrated a grand festival on the annual cutting of the mistletoe. As late as the seventeenth century, peculiar efficacy was attached to it, and a piece hung round the neck was considered a safeguard against witches. In modern times it has a tendency to lead us toward witches of a more attractive nature; for, as is well known, if you can by favor or cunning induce a fair one to come under the mistletoe you are entitled to kiss her.

## SANTA'S REINDEER

Santa's reindeer, according to an old legendary tale, happened like this. Many years ago the Lord decided to reward good children by having gifts taken to them once a year and asked Saint Nicholas to take over the task.

The gifts were to be carried in a sleigh drawn by any animal Santa chose. After pondering the question for three days an angel suggested to Saint Nick that he let a child choose the animal, so Santa and a child went to the Lord's animal kingdom.

The lion roared, the elephant swung his trunk, and the tiger growled. All of the animals seemed displeased, except the reindeer who looked lovingly at the child. And that's how reindeer came to draw Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve.

## BUTTER KEEPS IN HIGH TEMPERATURES

A new kind of butter, guaranteed to remain solid in temperatures up to 114 degrees Fahrenheit, is the latest contribution in Army culinary experimentation.

This new butter, able to be shipped without refrigeration, has been perfected by Major J. H. White and Col. Rohland A. Isker of the Army laboratory's meat and dairy section.

"This butter keeps almost indefinitely without refrigeration, judging from our tests to date," said Major White. "It is good quality dairy butter stabilized through the addition of a small amount of hardened fat. We have kept some of it for three months at 110 degrees of heat and it is still all right and taste good."

The advantage of the butter were shown when an experimental batch of it was shipped at ordinary temperatures to the Philippines, back through the Panama Canal, thence to New York, from New York to Chicago, and arrived as good as when it left.

## GRAIN

WE BUY or SELL our corn, maize heads and all kinds of hay. Write or wire SOUTHWEST GRAIN AND COMMISSION CO., Fort Worth, Texas.

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**WELL MACHINERY & SUPPLY COMPANY**  
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## LITTLE RONNIE



## A SHRINKING WORLD

Everyone knows the world has shrunk in terms of travel, transportation and communications. But the last stages had come so swiftly that laymen—and many so-called authorities who should have known better—were caught unawares. We did not realize how far we had advanced and what the modern world was like.

World spaces began to diminish at an increasingly rapid pace. Then, in the latter years of the nineteenth century, a new cycle began, and the size of the world was reduced in spectacular fashion. Radio, the automobile, the streamlined train, and the airplane were the great space reducers of this new age.

The modern era of technical progress may be divided into three periods. The first period, that of the fast stagecoach and the sailing vessel, lasted from about the time of William the Conqueror to the latter part of the eighteenth century. In the middle period, which covered the next hundred years or so, the major developments were the steamship and the locomotive.

Jules Verne's hero set an imaginary world record in 1872 when he travelled "Around the World in Eighty Days." This breathless exploit was supposedly accomplished in about one-thirtieth the time required by Magellan's expedition to sail around the world in 1522. Magellan spent almost three years, or 1,083 days, on his globe-girdling voyage.

In 1929 a German airship went around the world in 20 days and 4 hours, one-fourth of the time taken by Verne's hero. In 1938 Howard Hughes flew a 14,824-mile course around the world in less than 92 hours, one-fifth the German's time.

This year, a bomber, flying at 330 miles per hour, can make the trip in about 45 flying hours. Thus, Magellan's world was 518 times larger than the world of today. Jules Verne's world was 38 times larger, and even the world of Howard Hughes in 1938 was twice as large.

How long is a mile? To a man on foot it is the distance he will cover in about twenty minutes. In an airplane, moving at 180 miles an hour, it is the distance covered in twenty seconds. The walking mile is sixty times as long as the airplane mile.

The world changes its aspect as well as its shape as the miles per hour increase and the horizons are extended from on high. Man in his role of Superman seems unreal and impossible until it is realized that his modern achievements are entirely real. Flight is the most meaningful symbol of the world today, whether of its desirable futures or of its terrifying, destructive present.

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## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, come into my heart and mind. I pray Thee, and fill me with Thine infinite wisdom, love and power! For as Thou knowest, I have great need of Thee, and my strength is in the promise of Him who spoke, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." And therefore I pray, walk by my side, O Lord, from the moment I rise in the morning until I sleep again at night. Guide me and help me always. Help me to help others and to live righteously. In Jesus name I ask it, humbly, amen.



# Our Boys and Girls

AUNT MARY, Editor, 1809 Ashland, Fort Worth, Texas.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

DEAR FRIENDS:

Wish it were possible for me to write and mail a personal letter to each one of the 1400 members of the Friendly Hobby Club. However, this is my Christmas greeting card:

May all your happy dreams come true,  
May all your skies be ever blue—  
With finest friends in all the land,  
And joys as countless as the sand.  
This and more I wish to say  
Shall be your lot on Christmas Day.

We are going to have a real old-fashioned jolly Christmas. No doubt about it. We have it coming to us. All through the year we have worked hard, studied hard and for one day, or one week, we shall take off and celebrate the birth of our blessed Saviour, who so loved little children that He said, "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Yes, we shall think of Jesus on Christmas Day—how kind He was to everybody and how He befriended the poor and lonely. We must do likewise—must pick out poor, lonely persons and befriend them, speak kindly to them. That's the Christmas spirit and I want the 1400 members of the Friendly Hobby Club to keep in mind that to be happy through Christmas they must make others happy, be charitable and mindful of the poor, the needy and the lonely.

Wherefore, Aunt Mary wishes you the gayest, the MERRIEST CHRISTMAS and the HAPPIEST NEW YEAR.  
With all my love,  
(Signed) AUNT MARY.

## AUNT LUCY COMES TO VISIT

It was Christmas morning and the household of the Peter Brown family was visibly agitated. Mother Brown was in the kitchen, wiping the beads of perspiration from her face as she placed the steaming turkey in the oven after the tenth basting.

"Whew," she sighed, "I hope that will finish that bird. It is certainly tender and should be mighty juicy." She was speaking to Peter Brown, her husband, who had just come in with a huge armload of wood.

Small drops of water began to fall from his old corduroy cap as the heat melted the snow flakes that had gathered on it.

Mrs. Brown pulled back the curtain from the window over the sink as she worriedly said: "If this snow keeps up they'll have a disagreeable trip back from town. Wish I hadn't let the twins go with John. They'll be sick, sure."

"Oh, mother," Peter drawled, "there you go worrying again. Looks to me that you would let the kids grow up some day. Why, they took along enough blankets to smother them."

"I know its kind of silly of me," the plump good-natured woman admitted, "but somehow I can't help it. I guess a mother never thinks her children are quite grown up. I don't know which is hardest—the growing pains of children or the growing pains of mothers."

Peter Brown placed his strong arm about his wife's shoulders and patted her cheek affectionately. "You just worry all you want, ma. I believe we really like it."

Just then a loud shout outside the kitchen door told of the arrival of Aunt Lucy. Before mother and father could reach the door, it was thrown wide open by Jerry and Jean, the twins, who shouted excitedly: "She's here! she's here!"

"Now, boys, quiet down and help Aunt Lucy out," father admonished. "It isn't very nice to leave her there alone."

Jerry and Jean were 12 years old while their older brother, John, was 21. The sister they all wished they still had would have been 18 this Christmas. She lived but two years.

At the suggestion of their father, the twins rushed back to help Aunt Lucy out of the old-fashioned sleigh.

"Merry Christmas!" shouted Aunt Lucy, who was Peter's only sister, and Peter was proud of her.

Mother Brown followed the twins and her husband out to welcome the "guest," as she threw her ample apron over her head to ward off the falling snow.

"I haven't had such fun since I was a kid, Peter," Lucy exclaimed, as her brother put his arms around her and kissed her. "Where did you ever get the idea of sending this sleigh and team after me?"

"It was necessity, Lucy," Peter said. "We have gas ration, you know. We found the sleigh runners in that storage room over at the old home-place. That seat is from the body of a second-hand car we found at an auto graveyard. John and I had a bit of doing to make it strong, but she's sturdy enough and

the kids sure have had a big kick out of the crudely-made contraption."

After hugs and kisses all around, Aunt Lucy was escorted into the big family room, warmly heated by a log-burning fireplace. Her annual Christmas visit was always an event to be long remembered and talked about. This visit was no exception.

Lucy Brown (always called "Aunt Lucy") had never married and her lovely gray ensemble with fox collar pulled close to her throat, together with a slender figure, belied her 50 years.

She was private secretary to a big business man in a distant city and except for her infrequent letters Christmas was the only time of year she visited her brother's family. The twins adored her and sometimes at night a thrill came over them when they lay awake in bed and whispered some of the romantic things they had heard about their aunt. A favorite story was of Aunt Lucy as a young woman during World War I when she went overseas to nurse

the wounded on many battle fronts. They loved to picture in their young minds the scene they had heard described so often by their father—of how his sister had come upon the man she had promised to marry among the many wounded on a battlefield in France; how the wounded man lay for hours unconscious, and finally opened his eyes as Lucy bent over him, administering to his wounds; and later how he died in her arms in an army hospital. To Jerry and Jean this was a great drama—somewhat like the one they had seen on the screen at the Liberty Theater.

To Lucy it was something else. It was a wound that never healed. She chided herself for being a sentimental old fool. Yet in her heart she knew that her love for the dead soldier of World War I remained through the years.

Dinner was on the table and six very hungry persons were soon devouring turkey, cranberry sauce and all the trimmings. Mother Brown reproved Jean who had tried to talk with his mouth full of food. Father Brown smiled indulgently. Aunt Lucy just patted Jean's shoulder and remarked: "I don't mind in the least. Why, I was almost a boy once myself." At which they all laughed heartily.

After the chores were finished and they all sat around the big log-fire in the living room they quieted down. Each one was thinking of the happy reunion on this glad Christmas Day.

It was John who broke the silence. "Well, I know we are thinking of the same things. We are glad we have had this grand day together. We are wondering, too, what next year will be like. That is, I am wondering what it will be like. Shall we all be here together, just like this? I hope so."

Quietly Mrs. Brown wiped a tear from her eye. "Lucy," she spoke softly, "we haven't told you before, but now that the time of our being together is short, we must tell you."

"Tell me what?" asked Lucy.

"John is leaving for the service tomorrow," blurted out Father Brown.

"John leaving for the service?" Aunt Lucy's voice trembled. "Why, John's a farmer. He is vital to war production. He should stay right here."

"You don't understand, Aunt Lucy," John explained. "I know I am doing a big part here. But I want to do more. I want to go to the front and help settle this thing as it should have been settled long ago. I want to learn to fly a plane. I've been studying nights for a long time. This year's crop is in and by spring the twins will be large enough to do a man's work, that is, almost."

"You bet we can," chimed in Jerry. "Why, I can lift a hundred pounds easy."

Lucy Brown silently picked up her coat in the hall, pulled it around her shoulders and, asking to be excused, walked out into the night.

The snow-storm was over, the moon shone brightly and the stars twinkled out of a clear sky. Lucy crossed the yard and took the path-way leading to the barn. Here she climbed a ladder to the hay loft and cautiously made her way to a door.

Pulling aside a latch, she opened the door and, with tears in her eyes, gazed out on a familiar scene. There stood her brother's home and the stately oak trees in the background. It was here she had come as a young girl when hurt in spirit. It was here she had erected in her mind a chapel where she could talk to God.

Now, looking heavenward, she prayed: "Not this time, God, not this time; please spare John's life. He is so young; much too young to die. So was my soldier lover, but he was taken from me. I make no complaint. I find no fault. Thy will be done, oh Lord, not mine."

For a long time she stood gazing at the (Continued top next column)

## MERRY XMAS



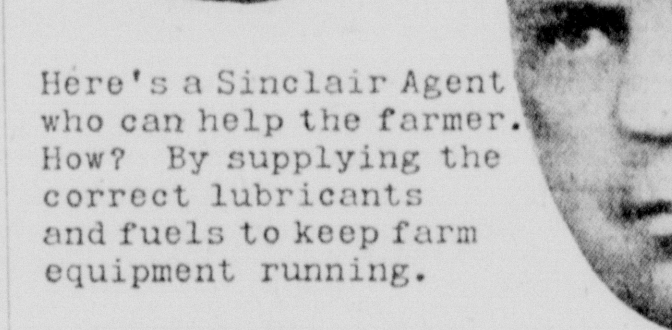
By George



Here's a Coast Guard Officer who protects our shores. To keep alert he needs good food—



Here's a farmer who will supply the food—



Here's a Sinclair Agent who can help the farmer. How? By supplying the correct lubricants and fuels to keep farm equipment running.

RAISING BUMPER CROPS for war means that farm equipment must be maintained better than ever before. To do this job, your nearest Sinclair Agent offers you dependable Sinclair lubricants and fuels. Phone or write him today. His truck delivers direct to farms.

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stars. One was brighter than the rest and she imagined it held the image of her lost soldier lover to whom she had remained true throughout the years.

Quietly she closed the loft door, went down the ladder and returned to her brother's house. In her heart she believed her prayer would be answered.

## DRIED FOOD BOOM

With one or two cargo carriers sunk every day, with tin so scarce, the business of dehydrating vegetables, fruits and eggs is booming.

The reason for all this activity is plain. Most food contains much water. Eggs and meat are three-fourths water. Some vegetables are 90 per cent water. Get rid of this water and we obviously reduce bulk and thus save shipping space and reduce the number of warships required for convoying.

Eleven pounds of vegetables become one pound by drying. Three dozen shell eggs make one pound of dried eggs. About four pounds of raw lean meat can be reduced to one pound. A cargo of dehydrated fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk and meat contains as much nutriment as several cargoes of raw ones.

Foods deprived of water are classified as "dried," "sun-dried," "evaporated" and "dehydrated." The first term implies the removal of water by any means; the second implies removal without artificial heat. In both evaporation and dehydration artificial heat is necessary. Evaporation depends on natural draft; dehydration on forced circulation of artificial heat.—Science Digest.

And all flesh shall be the kingdom of heaven is at salvation of God. Luke 2:49. hand. St. Matthew 3:2.

## CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM, PA.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, will celebrate its 201st anniversary this Christmas. It was founded by Moravian settlers in 1741 who huddled in a rude cabin on Conocacy creek and sang Christmas carols, which inspired them and their leader, Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf, to name the community after the little town of the Holy Land.

Bethlehem holds much of tourist interest in any season. It boasts the oldest drug store, first fire engine and oldest girls' boarding school in the United States. Generals Washington, Pulaski and Lafayette were entertained at Bethlehem. Wounded Revolutionary soldiers were nursed back to health there in a building which is part of the Moravian College for Women.

## BUT ONE FAITH

Americans have built their way of life on a foundation of democracy. In the town meeting, in the caucus, in the council, in the Congress, each has his say. Discussion is in our blood, the free exchange of views. The forum is an American institution, the free forum. The free press is a firm tradition, exemplified by almost 13,000 newspapers in this land. The pulpit is a free pulpit, and though we have many creeds we have but one faith. Differences we may have but no dictator. A nation strong in time of peace is sure to be even stronger in time of war.

## JOHN M. SPELLMAN

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# HOUSEHOLD HELPS

MRS. MARGARET STUTE, Editor, 1809 Ashland, Fort Worth, Texas.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

EVEN though there may be vacant chairs at the dinner table this Christmas, let us make the occasion one to be long remembered.

Most menus will show little effects of the war. Due to bountiful nature, we still have an abundance of food. Let us conserve this food and use it wisely. With all the information supplied Mrs. Housewife by government agencies, America is far from drastic rationing. There is less sugar and less coffee, but enough to go around if used discreetly. It is making the most of what we have that determines success as a housekeeper.

If we will look about us we can find things right in our woodlands and yards to decorate the Christmas table. Many leaves are still lovely in color. Then there are the wild vines with bright red berries and mistletoe with its glossy white berries. All of these can be arranged to make lovely decorations. In one home I saw Johnson grass that had been dipped in silver paint and other



wild grasses dipped in bright blues, greens and reds which, when combined, gave a lovely effect for a tall center piece.

Of course, if we use real candles we must be careful of fire hazards—more now than ever before, because it is an aid to the enemy when fire gets beyond our control.

Food itself is the best decoration and can be made to appeal to the sense of eye, taste and smell. An artistic arranging of food is of vital importance. Serving each food article in a dish of proper size lends attractiveness to any table. Serving a small quantity in a big dish or a big quantity in a small dish detracts from the food thus served.

Preserving the color of food in cooking is most desirable. What is more beautiful than a golden brown turkey, red cranberry sauce and green gelatine salads? Here we have the traditional colors of Christmas which have a festive as well as a decorative appearance.

## THE HOME FRONT

LAST year with no war on our home front, there were killed in America 102,500 persons through preventable accidents. It's a ghastly record. Here are some timely tips that will help you do your part in preventing such accidents, all of which is an aid to the enemy:

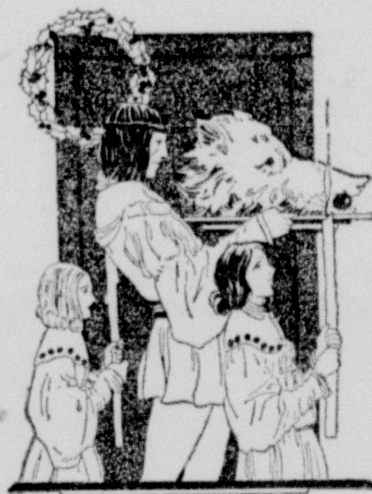
One of the "enemy agents" doing much damage in this country is called "carbon monoxide gas." This deadly gas kills silently and without warning. Its best striking place is in a closed garage with the auto motor running, or in the auto itself when windows are tight while driving. There is another favorite place and that is in the home where unsafe heating methods are used, such as portable heaters not in good operating condition, and where there is little or no ventilation. Monoxide gas is invisible, tasteless and deadly.

## FASHIONS AT WAR

THE length of our clothes has been regulated to conserve materials, workmen, and therefore fashions even have gone to war.

There are fine lovely things in the shops despite a world at war. Of course, there are not nearly so many different models to choose from and the number of colors and sizes are limited. A little wise shopping is necessary before we may find the articles necessary to our wardrobe.

This year's styles are most flattering. We find wide ranges in colors and styles. For the figure that is slender, the strictly tailored suit in dark colors is most serviceable. The college girl, of course, will want one of the brightly colored ensembles that sport a large top coat. It is



necessary to look for good workmanship and fast colors. Then we must give our clothes better care than ever before; they have to last longer, you know.

The watch-word of American womanhood can be, "better dressed, chin up and SAVE."

Highlights among younger girl dresses are the peasant skirts with blouse or sweater, gay little suspender dresses of wool crepe or corduroy, with braid of embroidery in peasant design. With them are usually blouses with the design carried out in the trimming, or they may wear a contrasting sweater.

The peasant theme is repeated in other frocks, of broadcloth, pique or other cottons.

## HOLIDAY GOODIES

WITH the amount of sugar rationed, we must use our wits to provide the little folks with enough sweets for a Merry Christmas. It is right of childhood to cherish happy home memories. It is the memories of past happy home days that will inspire our sons at the front to fight harder and endure fatigue longer.

Here are some suggestions that will provide good things to eat and at the same time conserve sugar:

### Prune Spice Sugarless Cake

- 2 1/4 cups sifted cake flour
- 2 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 teaspoons cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 3/4 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 cup butter or other shortening
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 2 eggs, unbeaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder, salt and spices and sift together three times.

Cream shortening with lemon rind; add syrup gradually, beating well after each addition. Add one quarter of flour and beat until smooth and well blended. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each. Add remaining flour in thirds, alternately with milk in halves beating very well after each addition. For best results beat cake very well at each stage of mixing. Add vanilla. Bake in 2 greased 8-inch layer pans in moderate oven (375° F.) 30 minutes, or until done. Spread prune filling between layers and whipped cream, flavored with vanilla, on top of cake.

Prune Filling: Place 3 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch in top of double boiler. Add 1 cup of

prune juice gradually, then add a dash of salt, 2 teaspoons lemon juice, 1 teaspoon grated orange rind, and 3/4 teaspoon grated lemon rind. Mix thoroughly. Cook over direct heat until thickened, stirring constantly. Add 2 tablespoons corn syrup and 1 cup chopped prunes and mix well. Then cook over boiling water 12 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool. Add 1/3 cup chopped nut meats, if desired.

### Popcorn Balls

Take one pint extracted honey. Put into an iron frying pan and boil until very thick; then stir in freshly popped corn, and, when cold, mold into balls. These will delight anyone.

### French Candies

In an enameled-ware sauce pan melt one part of gelatin in one part of water, stirring well. When arrived at the state of a soft paste, add 4 parts of honey, previously warmed, stirring lively. Take from the fire; add the desired flavor and color, mixing carefully, and pour into a shallow lightly greased dish. Let it dry for a few days. Very delicious!

### Cream Pie

- 4 tablespoons sugar
  - 4 tablespoons cornstarch
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 1 1/2 cups milk
  - 2 egg yolks, slightly beaten
  - 1/2 cup corn syrup
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
  - 1 8-inch baking pastry shell.
- Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt in top part of double boiler. Add milk gradually, blending well. Cook over direct heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens. Blend slightly-beaten egg yolks with syrup and add to hot mixture, beating vigorously. Cook, covered, over hot water for 15 minutes. Cool, add vanilla, and pour into baked (Continued top next column)



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ed pastry shell. Top with meringue and bake in a slow oven (325 degrees F.) for 20 minutes.

## CUT FLOWERS AN IDEAL GIFT

Cut flowers delivered on Christmas Day are an ideal gift, especially to the lady of the house. Such an expression of appreciation for her efforts in making the holiday a joyous one for her family will do much to give her tired spirits a lift. Florists make it a rule to celebrate Christmas on the day after so that their services may be available to you for these bits of last-minute thoughtfulness.

## MISS LIBERTY

Ever since the Statue of Liberty was erected on Bedloe's Island, in New York City's harbor, its lights have been growing steadily brighter. At first her 40-foot right arm held aloft a torch that owed its not-so-bright light to lamps, which had to be lighted by hand. Later thirteen 1,000-watt incandescent bulbs took the place of the hand-lighted lamps.

But on the first of January, 1941, this 50-year-old and 152-foot tall statue started welcoming travelers while they still are twenty miles at sea with the brightest lights of her career. These lights will shine from her torch, which is 300 feet above sea level, lighting the New York harbor as never before.

Already the tallest statue in the world, Miss Liberty will also be the brightest with her new 3,000-watt mercury vapor lights.

Alone but not lonely on her 12-acre island home, Miss Liberty may get more attention this Christmas because of her new lights, but hardly more visitors. Already some 300,000 people visit her every year, making the trip from Lower Manhattan to Bedloe's Island by ferry. Many take the elevator to the pedestal, then climb the 161 steps to its head. Some climb the 54 rungs in the ladder of the

statue's upraised arm. And all are impressed by the fact that forty persons could stand on Miss Liberty's head, which is ten feet thick; that the length of one finger is eight feet; that the statue's mouth measures three feet across and the nose four feet in length.

The oft-used phrases, "A gift of the French people," only hints at the twelve long years of doubts and delays and collections and criticisms that preceded the statue's erection in 1886. Some said the statue would topple over in a gale, others objected to the direction in which it faced. Grover Cleveland, then Governor of New York, vetoed an appropriation of \$50,000 for the pedestal. Even after the pieces of the statue were packed into their 214 crates and shipped from Paris to New York a year elapsed before work started on its erection.

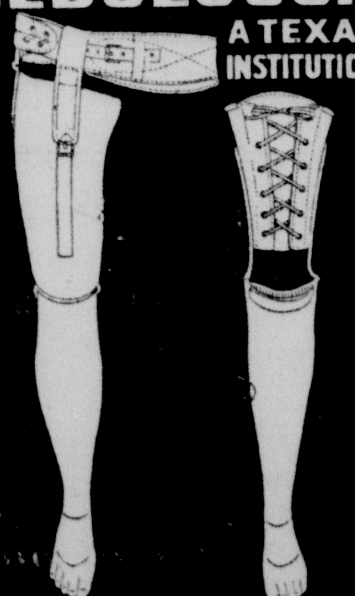
The French people had subscribed \$700,000 for the statue. The American people subscribed \$300,000 for the pedestal. But these subscriptions came slowly. A tier of granite would be laid on the pedestal one month and because of lagging subscriptions, nothing would be done the next. Statuettes, photographs and pamphlets were sold to raise money. A bill to appropriate \$100,000 for

the job was introduced into Congress, but the Committee on Appropriations neglected to include the item in its final budget.

Today the Statue of Liberty as a national symbol has greater significance than ever before. It typifies what we and our Allies are fighting for. May its bright lights never grow dim.

Salt added to the bath gives the skin a delightful tingle and stimulates the entire body. Or, if preferred, it may be used as a rub.

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